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Agents for Young Hotel Laundry.

JAPAN'S HAND STRETCHED TOWARD HAWAII

By Frederick O'Brien in the New York Herald.

POPULATION OF HAWAII BY THE CENSUS OF 1900.

Negroes, Malays, etc.	638
English, Germans, etc.	5,893
Americans.	7,283
Portuguese.	15,675
Native Hawaiians.	37,635
Asiatics (Chinese).	25,762
Asiatics (Japanese).	61,115
Total.	154,001

Honolulu, Hawaii, May 20.

Is Japan a menace to America in Hawaii?

Does the presence of some eighty thousand subjects of the Mikado in this first outpost of Columbia in the Pacific portend evil to us?

Has Japan any untoward motive in permitting so many of her people to come here? Does she contemplate their aggressive use against the flag under which they live?

Is it true that most or many of these Japanese are former soldiers and that they take orders now from representatives of their Emperor as to preparedness for war?

Whatever may be the present or future relations of Japan with the United States growing out of the heightening struggle for the mastery of the Pacific, one may not doubt that the questions above are recurring to many of the leading statesmen of several nations.

They have attracted the serious attention of the highest officials at Washington, and a study is being made of the extraordinary conditions existing. Specially sent here by the Herald to study the problem on the ground, after years of residence in Hawaii and the Orient, I confess to a confusion of impressions which yields no definite or concrete answer.

Certain things may be said without fear of contradiction: Hawaii is fast being Japanned. On account of the conflict of political and commercial interests, and the peculiar labor demands of Hawaii's one great product, sugar, there is no hope of this process ceasing except by the arbitrary action of Congress. With the vast purpose of the saccharine chiefs ever ready to stop unfavorable legislation such action is improbable.

Hawaii faces the almost certain fate of domination racially, and mayhap commercially and politically, by the star which has risen in the East in the last decade.

The conquerors of the Chinese and the Russians swarm here like the squids on the reefs of Waikiki. There are today in this Territory of the United States of America, according to the best statistics and on the authority of Mr. Edwin Farmer, boarding officer of the United States customs service, about 80,000 Japanese, and perhaps there are even 90,000. I have chosen rather, however, to give the official figures of the last census report, although it is certain that since its issuance the Japanese population has greatly increased.

SEVEN TO ONE AGAINST THE WHITES.

There are more than 35,000 Chinese and only about 65,000 of other people. But when one talks of conquest, military or commercial, one counts only the able bodied men, men who can carry a hoe or a gun, wield a sword or a pen—and of these there are more than 50,000 and perhaps 60,000 Japanese, forming from fifty-one to sixty per cent of the male population. With the 20,000 Chinese men three-fourths of all the people capable of performing the duties of a soldier are Asiatics. Of whites, the men who are sworn to defend American interests, there are fewer than 10,000, and many of these are Portuguese and other Europeans without concern in the glory of the Stars and stripes.

It is apparent that in Hawaii the balance of manual strength lies with the Japanese. Joined by his brethren of the queue, it would mean three to one against all others here, and seven or more to one against the whites.

Rather a long shot for Uncle Sam to play in these troublous times, even if the race is straight and to the speed-test.

But what are the Japanese doing here? One may listen to strange stories of honest laborers assembled by company and regiment in moonlit fields, of drills at midnight in lonely places and other weird, incredible tales of warlike preparations by the Mikado's men in Hawaii now. Sift them and you have but a thin substance for the ominous mass said to shadow our sovereignty. Perhaps a band of Pale youths, Chinese cadets in Christian schools, flash their tin bayonets in the cool of the evening out Kailahi way or wave their pewter swords under the plumy palms or in the clearings of the sugar and paddy fields.

Ask Governor Carter or the police and they smile indulgently, as if to say many have been bewitched by the sea of kimonos and wooden clogs. But whisper to "Bob" Kidd, a leading journalist here, or to "Scotty," the leading dispensary proprietor, or to a hundred others not helping to rule the islands, and they will draw vivid pictures of what they have seen. Differences of opinion are many, but the man in the street here believes Japan just waits to take into her maw these fair coral dots, that the ambition of Nippon is to float the red ball on the white field over Captain Cook's discovery and that every last mother's son of Japan will arise at a prearranged signal and seize the government.

These ideas have become prevalent only since the peace between Russia and Japan was made. They arose primarily from Japan's sudden bound into the family of the great nations and her startling exhibition of military and commercial genius in war and peace since the century began. Her humbling of Adam-Zad took up this word in

Kipling's poem "The Truce of the Bear," the bear that walks like a man, astounded the unknowing world, and in Hawaii the Japanese, hitherto considered but ciphers in the political monde, mere sugar making machines imported by the planters, became suddenly the wonder of all. Later wonder grew into suspicion, and the recent controversy in California over schools and exclusion fanned this into fear.

Their fantastic business signs are in every block; they hold three-fourths of the licenses for all occupations, forming, with the Chinese, ninety-eight per cent of all the workers in these islands, occupying eighty per cent of the seats in the schools and pouring in by every steamship. The white and Hawaiian residents have awakened at last to the fact that they are sold for a mess of pottage to an Oriental race, and are now in the jiu-jitsu clutch of the little, brown and strong man.

Of course, it may be argued that preponderance of population does not insure any race's supremacy, and India will be cited as the most striking example, and perhaps even the Philippines, nearer home. But it must be remembered that back of the few scores of thousands of British in India and the one score thousand American soldiers and civilians in the Philippine archipelago are the millions and might of Great Britain and the United States, while the natives of both India and the Philippines stand alone. Reverse the medal and put as many Americans in Aguinaldo's land as Filipinos, and it is evident that no invaders would subject them.

Whereas until a few years ago the entire importation of Japanese was of the laboring class, now a different kind enters. And this despite the desires of the sugar planters, who foster the immigration. To understand this one must go a little into the history of the Japanese movement to Hawaii. There is little else grown in Hawaii than sugar. Out of \$36,000,000 of exports a year \$35,000,000 is from the cane. Cheap, efficient labor is the basis of cane growing.

At first the planters employed kanakas, but that race is dying and with the present extended domain in cane forms less than a seventh of the laborers necessary. Then came an era of Chinese. They were cheap, and, like their successors, the Japanese, rarely brought families. This lessened the cost of transportation. After a while the planters grew fearful of the single race problems, for with their secret societies and family ties the Chinese, united, threatened to raise wages. Then began the real effort after Japan. A formal convention was finally entered into between the kingdom of Hawaii and the empire of Japan as to immigration. This was in 1888, and a year later Chinese were excluded by the Hawaiian King and his advisers.

Japanese rushed in then by the tens of thousands. The men who in 1893 deposed Liliuokalani and ended the last picturesque pageant of these summer seas—and they were the sugar planters—sought Chinese again. The Mongols came with a will, but the Japanese did not cease to arrive or to shrink competition with the Cantonese.

Now the Japanese government, Westernizing always, passed laws compelling protective bonds for the good treatment of its emigrants. From this sprang great corporations which gave these bonds and sold the emigrants to the planters for a period, and this sale, until annexation of the islands to America, was enforced by imprisonment and not seldom by harsh treatment.

These companies waxed rich and bled the planters leechfully. The planters writhed and pleaded vainly, and finally revolted when from veins the labor trust fixed on arteries. When the American flag went up the planters withdrew the bounty they paid the monopoly as all the penal labor being freed of its contracts, wages rose with a leap. Then the trust stopped the flow of Japanese almost absolutely and forced the planters to pay liberally before they permitted workers again to come. Annexation barred the Chinese and the planters found themselves at the mercy of the octopus.

More and more since then have the sugar growers looked about the world for men to cultivate their fields. A clever lawyer went to Manila as their agent a year ago and tried in vain to induce Filipinos to take the waiting jobs. The Filipino is not migratory, nor does he ever seek work. A score were obtained. This week a ship arrived from Spain with twenty-three hundred laborers and their families. Another sailed from Portugal with seven hundred and fifty. Agents of the millionaire farmers here scour the earth for men. Many races have been tried—Koreans, negroes, Porto Ricans, South Sea Islanders, Portuguese, Spanish, Filipinos—any nationality to prevent the monopoly and increasing demands of the Japanese.

But the Japanese specter will not be put down. It is not patriotism urging the planters to escape the domination of the Japanese. It is fear, and just how far the fear of their controlling the labor market mingles with the dread of their getting the upper hand politically can not be guessed.

The Hawaiians are a vanishing race. There are hardly more than twenty-five thousand of them in all the islands. Germs and gin have thinned their lean, brown ranks until except as a majority in the voting booth they are a negative equation. They delight to loaf and love while the sturdy fellows from Kanagawa and a dozen other kens of Japan toil with hoe and shovel and sell them their daily food. Even the astute Chinese goes down before the phalanx of numbers, energy and brawn from Nippon. Prevented from immigrating here, and with comparatively few women to breed their kind, the Chinaman is also doomed to decrease, while the Japanese flourishes like a bayonet tree.

The whites in Hawaii realize the apparent impending doom of their supremacy if no barrier be erected to the flood of Asiatics. Your rich planter will not admit it, for he is between the devil and the deep sea—the sea of

terror lest this machine of labor he has fashioned becomes a Frankenstein to harass him and the devil of necessity of having a constant supply of men willing and able to do the grinding tasks of the fields, where sun and bent body combine to squeeze the heart out of any but the nerveless, muscular and determined Japanese and Chinese, in whose own lands for ages all the work of tilling the earth has been done practically by the hands alone.

JAPANESE WILL WORK.

All these importations of Spaniards, Portuguese and others are but expedients—the tortuous efforts of the planters to escape from the yoke of the men who crippled the great Bear. They have failed. Negroes proved more inclined to wield razors than hoes and to surround the crops layout often than the shoot of cane. Porto Ricans were anemic and quarrelsome, beggarly and unfitted for the tremendous toll of the endless rows of stalks. Portuguese are too few and tend to choose other avenues of employment. Always it resolves itself into the Japanese and the job.

And the Japanese gets more independent as the struggle to get workmen on the Pacific Coast grows fiercer. Agents of the railways building extensions there are frantic for labor and their agents are here now to entice the Portuguese to the ties and rails. The planters are making the strongest efforts to retain their men, but with higher wages and an easier life offered him the laborer hesitates but seldom. The conditions of labor are freer in the United States than here, where the traditions of penal contract days have not died out. Many Japanese come to Honolulu as a ruse to reach California. As a rule the Japanese government refuses passports to her citizens who want to go to the Pacific Coast, but grant them to Hawaii. Since Japan seized Korea she has stopped Koreans coming here.

But for all the Japanese who have gone from here to San Francisco and Seattle more have come to take their places. The fields must have them and the immigration companies have them on tap if the dollars are forthcoming.

But, after all, admitting that the Japanese dominate in every low but politics and land owning, is there any reason to believe there is any plan on their part to do more in Hawaii than make money?

Friction between the United States and Japan over the San Francisco school controversy began in October, 1906. During that month no Japanese came to Hawaii. In November there were fewer than usual, but in December nearly three times the ordinary number came. The Hawaiian government was astonished, so was Washington. There is no means at my disposal of ascertaining how many have arrived here during the months of this year. Those who ought to know say that the tide is flowing heavily here and that for some indefinite reason the immigration companies are redoubling their shipments of human freight. Perhaps it is because it is feared the anti-Japanese agitation in the United States may exclude them from all parts of it. Perhaps the Mikado would like to have a strong force here if trouble comes.

And here arises the question put in the first paragraphs of this article: Are most or many of the Japanese now in Hawaii and coming here former soldiers?

How are you to tell? The soldier mustered out or when on a mission of secrecy wears no uniform nor cries out his former occupation. Certainly thousands of the Japanese one sees here, in street and in field, have the carriage of the fighting man. Perhaps if one could call out suddenly, in one language, "Attention! Company!" one might get results in stiffened frame and squared shoulders.

Some of these immigrants bring their uniforms and display them proudly. Many wear medals given them for courage displayed in some dashing charge or forlorn hope, and now and again a sword occurs among the small baggage, and the immigrant confesses he "was" an officer with Nogi or Kuroki. This is presumably purely sentiment, for the sword is useless in the cane fields and is a decadent weapon anyhow.

SOME POSSIBILITIES.

While one has no foundation, except that vague, intangible one of suspicion and probability, to affirm that the Japanese War Department is sending to American territory a body of soldiers, yet it is certain that there would be no hesitation on her part in grasping promptly whatever advantages this situation offered her in event of the actual outbreak of hostilities. Moreover, it is absolutely certain that the intelligence office of the Japanese War Department avails itself of the opportunity afforded to send its spies among the immigrants whenever it seems worth while and that many soldiers or former soldiers qualified by their characteristics for such work are engaged in a practical espionage, which in the aggregate must supply to the office data of vast importance.

Governor Carter advised me to see Mr. C. Shiozawa, the proprietor and editor of the Hawaii Shingo, the most influential daily newspaper printed in Japanese here. He has been in Hawaii sixteen years, is a gentleman by birth and has a brother a major on the general staff of the army.

"I am sorry you see things that way," he said. "Intelligent men should not spread abroad erroneous conclusions. The Japanese in Hawaii are here solely because they can make more money than at home. Plantation hands now receive on an average \$15 a month. It is too little, but it is more than they pay in Japan. Therefore they come here in hopes of saving enough to return home and become farmers on their own account."

"Few intend to remain here. There are no inducements after the immigrant has amassed his tiny competency. You refuse us citizenship, conditions on the plantations . . . humiliate and disagreeable and the planter seeks only to grind all the energy possible from our people. Under the new understanding between the United States and Japan no passports are to be issued to Japanese laborers to go to the mainland of America, nor are any to be permitted to go there from Hawaii. Except for the few who will emigrate from here to Canada and Mexico in the endeavor to smuggle themselves into the United States the Japanese population of this Territory will not decrease unless exiles return to their own country."

"I calculate there are 70,000 Japanese



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here now, of whom 40,000 are plantation laborers. This is enough. There is hardly work now to go round. Of course, the planters will encourage an unnatural immigration, so as to flood the market with labor and force and keep wages down. I recommend that the Japanese government refuse to allow more Japanese to come here.

"Those medals you speak of as war medals are Red Cross badges sold in Kobe and Yokohama, where emigrants wait to take ship, by that society's agents, who tell their dupes they are badges of international brotherhood. It is almost useless to attempt to stem the tide of suspicion among ignorant people here, but the fact is that the Japanese government is interested in its people here solely to the extent of seeking their physical welfare. Instead of Japanizing Hawaii we are becoming Americanized. We wear your clothes and eat your bread in preference to our own. Go into any Japanese store in Hawaii and you will find half the goods on the shelves American. I have lived here since 1891 and I have never seen any evidence of Japan's seeking to learn military secrets nor to colonize these islands. On the other hand it is easily proved that Japan restrains immigration to Hawaii. But one thousand people a month are now permitted to leave Japan for here, despite the efforts of the planters, steamship companies and immigration societies. Japan wants America's friendship and does not want her citizens to go where they are suspected or disliked."

These are all the sides of the question except those known alone to the secret agents of Japan and America. From a military standpoint the situation is just this: Hawaii is 2100 miles from San Francisco, the nearest naval station or place of embarking troops. Hawaii holds some 80,000 aliens owing allegiance to a power about twice as far away. They are men fitted for war. In case of such a declaration Japan's powerful navy could reach Honolulu in two weeks from Yokohama, and, of course, it is infinitely superior to the modest squadron Uncle Sam has on the Pacific coast. Hawaii is undefended as yet. Japan could take Hawaii easily, using her navy and transported troops. What part would the 80,000 or 90,000 Japanese now in Hawaii play if such a grisly drama was staged?

FREDERICK O'BRIEN.